

## INSIDE TODAY

## WORLD NEWS

## NAZI VANDALISM



A cut barbed wire fence through which the inscription "Arbeit Macht Frei" was taken out after being stolen Friday early morning, Dec. 18, 2009.

Read more on Page A6

## SPORTS NEWS

## PEYTON PERFECT



Indianapolis Colts quarterback Peyton Manning (18) throws a second-quarter pass against the Jacksonville Jaguars during an NFL football game Thursday, Dec. 17, 2009, in Jacksonville, Fla.

Read more on Page A12



Some of around 1,000 people walk through the streets of Copenhagen on the last day of the UN climate summit in Copenhagen, Denmark, Friday, Dec. 18, 2009. The demonstration was to protest against the Danish Police arrests of three spokespersons from the group "Climate Justice Action".

Associated Press

## Obama: 'Meaningful breakthrough' reached at U.N. climate talks

JENNIFER LOVEN  
MICHAEL CASEY

Associated Press Writers

COPENHAGEN (AP) — President Barack Obama said the United States, China and several other countries reached an "unprecedented breakthrough" Friday to curb greenhouse gas emissions — including a mechanism to verify compliance — after a frenzied day of diplomacy at the U.N. climate talks.

The agreement, which also includes the developing nations of India, South Africa and Brazil, requires each country to list the actions they will take to cut global

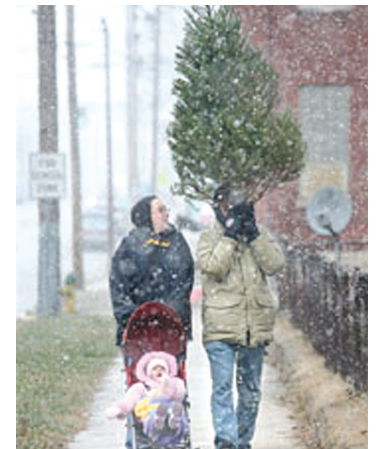
warming pollution by specific amounts, a senior Obama administration official said. The official described the deal on the condition of anonymity because specific details had not been announced.

The deal reiterates a goal that eight leading industrialized nations set earlier this year on long-term emission cuts and provides a mechanism to help poor countries prepare for climate change, the official said. But it falls far short of committing any nation to emissions reductions beyond a general acknowledgment that the effort should contain global temperatures along the

lines agreed to by the leading economic nations in July.

A European Union official said an overall agreement involving those nations not included in the deal that Obama announced was still being negotiated.

Continued on page 8



Emilee Edwards pushes her 18-month-old daughter, Sophie Edwards, in a stroller as her fiancée Zach Bordwick carries the family's new Christmas tree Friday afternoon, Dec. 18, 2009, in Quincy, Ill. The trio were headed home with their tree as snow began to fall.

Associated Press

## Storm warnings as snow bears down on mid-Atlantic coast

By JOHN RABY

Associated Press Writer

CHARLESTON, W. Va. — A major storm moving up the Atlantic Coast on the last shopping weekend before Christmas threatened to shut down much of the region as officials warned of the potential for up to 20 inches of snow and significant power outages.

Continued on Page 3



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In this Tuesday, May 27, 2008 file photo, the gurney used to restrain condemned prisoners during the lethal injection process is shown in the Texas death house in Huntsville, Texas. Texas and other states that lead America in executions are sentencing many fewer inmates to death, a trend that slowly is reducing the death row population in the United States, a report from an anti-capital punishment group says.

**MARK SHERMAN,**  
Associated Press Writer  
WASHINGTON (AP) — Texas and other states that lead the United States in executions are sentencing many fewer inmates to death, a trend that slowly is reducing the death row population in the United States, a report from an anti-capital punishment group says.

There were 106 death sentences

*Associated Press*  
imposed in 2009, the Death Penalty Information Center estimated in its annual report released Friday. That number is the smallest since capital punishment was reinstated in 1976 and compares with an annual average of 295 death sentences during the 1990s. Fifty-two people were put to death in 11 states this year, nearly half as many executions as 10 years ago.

# Report: U.S. death sentences decline

The center, which opposes capital punishment, attributes the drop in both executions and new death sentences to fears of executing the innocent, concerns about the high cost of the death penalty and laws that allow inmates to be sentenced to life in prison without parole.

Nine men who had been sentenced to death were exonerated and freed in 2009, the second highest-number of exonerations since the death penalty was reinstated, the report said.

Texas, which continues to far outpace other states in executions, has seen its death row population decline by more than a quarter in 10 years, mainly because of the decrease in death sentences. Harris County, Texas, which

includes Houston, has had no new death sentences for the past two years. Statewide, nine people were sentenced to death in Texas in 2009, compared with 48 in 1999 and an annual average of 34 in the 1990s.

Ohio and Virginia — other states among the annual leaders in executions each year — recorded just one new death sentence each, although another Ohio inmate was resentenced to death by a three-judge panel after his sentence was twice overturned.

Robin Piper, prosecuting attorney in Butler County in conservative southwest Ohio, said horrific cases that appear to demand a death sentence often become more complicated as the facts of the case emerge.

“For those jurors who are

potentially squeamish or reluctant to sit in judgment or to exercise the death penalty, life in prison without parole becomes a very viable option they can feel safe and secure with,” Piper said.

James Alan Fox, a criminology professor at Northeastern University in Boston, said two other factors probably are at work, the historically low crime rate and the Supreme Court’s decisions to keep juveniles and the mentally disabled from being executed. “The potential pool of offenders who are eligible for execution is smaller,” Fox said.

Money, especially during the economic downturn, also is playing a role in states’ consideration of the death penalty, the report said. □



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### STORM WARNINGS

#### Continued from Front Page

People stocked up on groceries and other staples as the National Weather Service issued winter storm warnings from the Carolinas to New Jersey.

In Virginia, Gov. Tim Kaine declared a state of emergency in anticipation of the storm, placing the National Guard and other agencies on standby.

Forecasters expected up to 20 inches of snow through late Saturday in the Washington metro area and the mountains of southern West Virginia and southwest Virginia. They said it could be the most snow in the nation's capital since a February 2003 storm dumped nearly 27 inches at Baltimore-Washington International Airport.

Up to a foot of snow was forecast in parts of Tennessee, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

Appalachian Power, which serves 1 million customers in Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia, warned of the potential for an extended power outage if wet, heavy snow falls.

The storm came from the Gulf and drenched South Florida with rain starting late Thursday, leaving flooded homes and stranded drivers.

In southern West Virginia, Ron Hart's hardware store had sold out of many supplies after a wind storm last week knocked out electricity for days. On Friday, he was swamped again as customers bought heaters and other storm supplies.

"People are having to spend money on bare essentials versus Christmas," Hart said. "Our Christmas sales are considerably down because of what people are having to buy."

Jim Weintraub, owner of Ace Hardware in Asheville, N.C., where a foot or more of snow was expected, said he picked

up 1,500 pounds of rock salt Friday morning. An hour-and-a-half later, "I'm just about out," he said.

But customers were thinking fun, too.

"I've been told we're the only store around with sleds," Weintraub said. "As I was driving back up to the store, my wife was calling me and saying, 'Where are you? People are waiting for sleds!'"

Some shoppers were trying to get their holiday buying done ahead of the snow.

"Most of them are coming in this morning to shop before they get snowed in," said Kayla Mahr at the Bath and Body shop at the River Ridge Mall in Lynchburg, Va.

Highway crews in Maryland, Delaware and the District of Columbia were spraying brine on heavily traveled roads to help prevent snow and ice from sticking. Delaware crews were to be sent home in the afternoon to rest up for what one official said would be a

long weekend.

Officials urged motorists to be cautious in deciding whether to drive Saturday.

Amtrak spokeswoman Karina Romero said the railway was putting extra crews on duty, in part to keep ice from forming on the overhead lines that power electric trains. Extra locomotives equipped with snow plows would also be available.

Some universities in Virginia and Maryland canceled final exams and weekend commencement exercises.

On the Tennessee-North Carolina line, the National Park Service closed a road through Newfound Gap in the Great Smoky Mountains after it got 4 inches of snow.

Ski operators were basking in the forecast, as long as motorists didn't get stuck en route to the slopes.

"The problem we have is not the customers, it's our staff getting here," said Brad Moretz, general manager of North Carolina's Appalachian



Ski Mountain.

After a warm start to the ski season that delayed openings of many resorts, the storm arrived just in time for Winterplace Ski Resort's season debut Friday in southern West Virginia.

"It's perfect timing," said Winterplace President Terry Pfeiffer. "With the new snow coming in, there's not going to be much better skiing."

The Coast Guard sent an airplane to fly from North Carolina to New Jersey warning boaters by radio to

stay in port if they didn't have an urgent need to be on the water.

Elsewhere in the East, church groups canceled Christmas programs, basketball games were called off and Delta Airlines canceled some flights Saturday at the Roanoke, Va., airport. The National Weather Service issued a flash flood warning for west Alabama, where rivers were still swollen from heavy rains earlier this week and as much as 3 more inches of rain was possible. □

## Good News

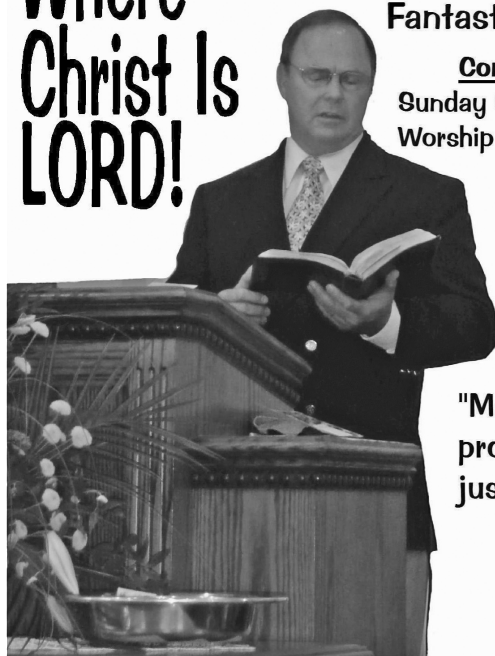
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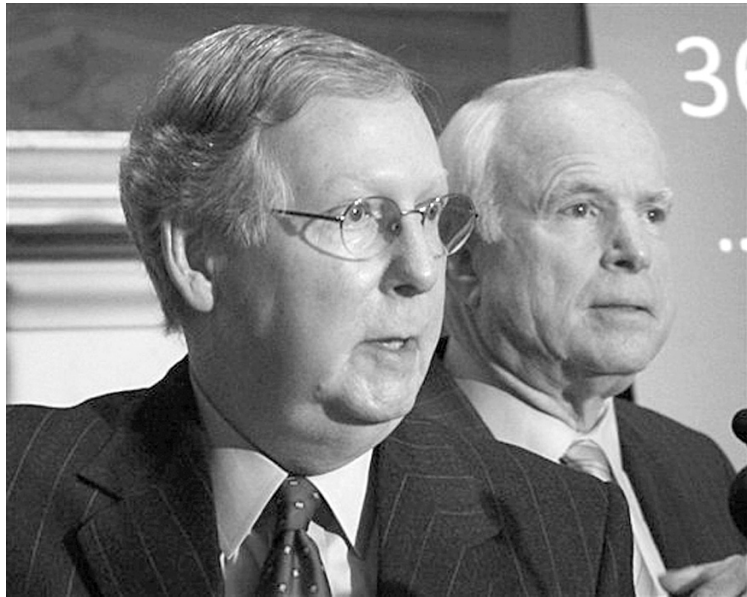
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# GOP threatens read-a-thon to slow health care bill



Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-KY., left, with Sen. John McCain, R-AZ, right, speaks during a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, Friday, Dec. 18, 2009.

*Associated Press*

By DAVID ESPO

AP Special Correspondent  
WASHINGTON

Republicans accused Democrats of bad manners, bad timing and bad health care policy on Friday, then summoned images of fire and ice for good measure as they campaigned to block passage of sweeping legislation President Barack Obama's allies want passed by Christmas. Unperturbed, the White House

and Democrats bargained behind closed doors for hours with Sen. Ben Nelson in a search for the 60th vote needed to pass the measure. "Hopefully, we're making progress," the Nebraska Democrat said during a break in the talks. Several officials said Nelson was seeking to ease the impact of a proposed insurance industry tax on nonprofit companies, as well as win

more federal funds to cover Nebraska's cost of treating patients in Medicaid, the state-federal health care program for the poor. These officials, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the talks, said the administration and Democratic leaders had offered concessions on those points. Nelson has spoken openly of seeking stricter abortion curbs, except in cases of rape, incest, or when the life of a mother is in danger. A proposed compromise on that issue has won the tentative support of Catholic hospitals. But the National Right to Life Committee objected. Later in the day, Cardinal Daniel DiNardo of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops also rejected the proposal. He said it "does not comply with long-standing ... restrictions on federal funding of elective abortions" that govern other government programs. The bishops played a significant role in drafting an abortion-related provision in the House bill. If Republicans cared

much about the outcome of negotiations, it wasn't apparent. "This massive piece of legislation that seeks to restructure one-sixth of our economy is being written behind closed doors without input from anyone in an effort to jam it past not only the Senate but the American people before Christmas," said Sen. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, the Republican leader. "They are virtually thumbing their nose at the American people who are virtually screaming at us, don't pass this bill," he added. Public opinion polls show lagging support for the measure, although Democrats argue that will change once legislation passes and consumers see benefits. Not all liberals saw it that way. MoveOn.org, which helped fuel Obama's election last year, announced its opposition to the measure, citing its lack of a government-run insurance option. It urged its members to sign a petition saying, "America needs real health

care reform — not a massive giveaway to the insurance companies." The bill is designed to extend coverage to millions who lack it, prohibit the industry from denying insurance on the basis of pre-existing medical conditions and generally slow the rate of growth of medical spending nationwide. At a cost of nearly \$1 trillion over a decade, it includes hundreds of billions of dollars to defray the cost of coverage to individuals and families at lower and middle incomes. Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada has been preparing a final series of revisions to the 2,074-page bill, with Senate debate expected to begin on them shortly after they are made public sometime early Saturday. Reid was involved in the negotiations with Nelson, as were White House officials, and there were also talks with Sen. Olympia Snowe, R-Maine, who voted for an earlier version of the legislation when it cleared the Senate Finance Committee. Republicans, who have been accused by Rush Limbaugh and others for failing to oppose the legislation vigorously enough, have threatened to force Senate clerks to read the entire text of the proposed changes aloud, a process that could consume eight hours or so. At a news conference with McConnell, Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., taunted Democrats in terms that recalled Obama's campaign promise of "change we can believe in." The health care bill, he said, "isn't change you can believe in; it's change that's astonishing. We all know that promises are made in political campaigns, but this is a complete reversal — there is no change. This is business as usual." "Tomorrow, there's going to be a snowstorm, and we'll be coming in RVs and everything will be paralyzed as our nation's capital always is when there's a snowstorm." McCain added, "But the fact is that there's a firestorm out there in America. That firestorm says stop this. Stop this." □



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# New CDC estimate: 1 in 110 children have autism

By **MIKE STOBBE**  
AP medical Writer

ATLANTA — About 1 in 110 children have autism, according to the government's latest estimate released Friday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It's a small change from a 1 in 100 preliminary estimate that CDC officials made in October from the same study. CDC officials said the latest number comes from a more complete analysis of reports from 11 states. Until recently, the CDC had been saying autism occurred in 1 in 150 children. The new CDC estimate looks at 8-year-old children who had been diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder in 2006. The increase may be due in part to better diagnosis and changes in how well records were kept in the study sites, said Catherine Rice, a CDC behavioral scientist who worked on the new report. "At this point it's impossible to say how much is a true

increase and how much is identification," she said, in a Friday news conference. Doctors do not know what causes autism, but have been investigating possible genetic and environmental triggers. Results from the environmental research are still years away, Rice said. In October, officials from the National Institute of Mental Health published results of a 2007 telephone survey of parents that concluded that 1 in 91 children had autism. At the same time, the CDC released to the media its preliminary results of 1 in 100 from its own research, which it updated on Friday. The study is based on medical and school records of nearly 2,800 children in communities in Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, Missouri, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina and Wisconsin. Autism is diagnosed by making judgments about a child's behavior; there are no blood

or biologic tests. For decades, the diagnosis was given only to kids with severe language and social impairments and unusual, repetitious behaviors. The definition of autism has gradually expanded, and "autism" is now shorthand for a group of milder, related conditions. Health officials have urged stepped-up screening of children for autism, saying early therapy can improve how well children develop. □



Ashton Faller, 5, left, plays with his brother Andrew Faller, 15, right, after Ashton won a round of Nintendo Wii basketball in Everett, Wash., Sunday, Nov. 29, 2009. Ashton, who had specialized treatment for autism starting age 2, now he has improved social skills.

Associated Press

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Tourists pause near the main entrance, with a replica of the inscription "Arbeit Macht Frei" (translated to "Work Sets You Free") over the entranceway to the former Nazi death camp Auschwitz Birkenau, in Oswiecim, southern Poland, Friday, Dec. 18, 2009. The original infamous iron sign over the main entrance to the former Nazi death camp Auschwitz Birkenau was stolen before dawn on Friday and the police have launched an intensive search, but the symbolic inscription above the entrance has been replaced by a replica sign.

*Associated Press*

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## Poland: Auschwitz 'Work Sets You Free' sign stolen

KRZYSZTOF KOPACZ  
MONIKA SCISLOWSKA

Associated Press Writers

OSWIECIM, Poland (AP) — The Nazis' infamous sign declaring "Arbeit Macht Frei" — German for "Work Sets You Free" — was stolen Friday from the entrance of the former Auschwitz death camp, Polish police said.

The 5-meter-long (16-foot-long), 40-kilogram (90-pound) steel sign at the Holocaust memorial site in southern Poland was unscrewed on one side and torn off on the other, police spokeswoman Katarzyna Padlo said.

The theft from the entrance to the camp — where more than 1 million people, mostly Jews, died during World War II — brought condemnation worldwide.

"The theft of such a symbolic object is an attack on the memory of the Holocaust, and an escalation from those elements that would like to return us to darker days," Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev said in a statement from Jerusalem.

"I call on all enlightened forces in the world who fight against anti-Semitism, racism, xenophobia and the hatred of the other, to join together to combat these trends."

The sign disappeared from the Auschwitz memorial between 3:30 a.m. and 5 a.m., Padlo said.

Police deployed 50 police, including 20 detectives, and a search dog to the Auschwitz grounds, where barracks, watchtowers and ruins of gas chambers stand as testament to the atrocities of Nazi Germany.

Police said they were reviewing footage from a surveillance camera that overlooks the entrance gate and the road beyond, but declined to say whether the crime was recorded.

Auschwitz museum spokesman Jaroslaw Mensfelt said it might have been too dark for the camera to have captured images.

He said the thieves apparently carried the sign 300 meters (yards) to an opening in a concrete wall. That opening had been left intentionally to preserve a poplar tree dating back to the time of the war.

Four metal bars that had blocked the opening were cut. Footprints in the snow led from the wall opening to the nearby road, where police

presume the sign was loaded on to a vehicle.

Poland's chief rabbi, Michael Schudrich, said he had trouble imagining who would steal the sign.

"If they are pranksters, they'd have to be sick pranksters, or someone with a political agenda. But whoever has done it has desecrated world memory," Schudrich said.

He said the theft could have been committed by neo-Nazi extremists, or even people scheming to sell the sign of the black market.

"There's a market for everything," he said, adding that it was "like stealing a Picasso. Even a hot Picasso you could try to move after 10 years — but not this."

An exact replica of the sign, produced when the original received restoration work years ago, was quickly hung in its place.

In Brussels, European Parliament president Jerzy Buzek, a former Polish prime minister, appealed to the thieves to return the sign.

"Give it back out of respect for the suffering of over a million victims, murdered in this Nazi camp, the biggest cemetery of humankind," Buzek said.

Polish President Lech Kaczynski said he was "shaken and outraged" by the theft of a "world-known symbol of Nazi cynicism and cruelty." He appealed to all Poles for help finding it.

Police were offering a 5,000-zloty (\$1,700) reward for public tipoffs about the thieves.

In Jerusalem, the International Auschwitz Committee said the theft "deeply unsettles the survivors."

"The sign has to be found," said Noach Flug, an Auschwitz survivor and president of the committee.

"The slogan and the camp itself will tell what happened even when we won't be able to tell anymore."

After occupying Poland in 1939, the Nazis established the Auschwitz I camp in the southern Polish city of Oswiecim and initially used it for German political prisoners and non-Jewish Polish prisoners, who began arriving in June 1940.

Nazi guards ordered Polish inmates to make the original sign shortly thereafter in the camp's workshop, museum spokesman Pawel Sawicki said. □



# Dutch to quiz Venezuela over "aggression" comment

AMSTERDAM - The Dutch Foreign Ministry said it wants Venezuela's ambassador to the Netherlands to clarify comments by President Hugo Chavez accusing the Netherlands of planning aggression against Venezuela.

Chavez said on Thursday the Netherlands was preparing "aggression" against Venezuela by allowing U.S. troops access to Dutch islands off the Caribbean coast of the OPEC nation. "The foreign minister will ask the Venezuelan ambassador for clarification regarding these remarks," a spokesman for the Dutch Foreign Ministry said.

He added all territories within the Kingdom of the Netherlands, which include Aruba and the Netherlands Antilles in the Caribbean, did not consider

Chavez's comments to be representative of the situation.

The United States has long had a presence on the islands of Curacao and Aruba, with about 250 Air Force crew and ground staff involved in counter-narcotics and surveillance operations over the Caribbean.

This surveillance happens from the air, and by unarmed planes only, the foreign ministry spokesman said.

On Thursday, Chavez did not say why he was accusing the Netherlands of preparing aggression now.

The Venezuelan president is embroiled in a dispute with neighbour Colombia over a deal to give the United States more access to its military bases. The former soldier says Washington fears his socialist government and is surrounding Venezuela.

While Chavez said the self-



governing Dutch islands were located in Venezuelan territorial waters, the Dutch foreign ministry said there was an existing agreement

about borders.

"The sea borders between the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Venezuela have been established by

treaty between the countries and the Netherlands expects Venezuela will respect that treaty," the spokesman said.

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President Barack Obama speaks at the morning plenary session of the United Nations Climate Change Conference at the Bella Center in Copenhagen, Denmark, Friday, Dec. 18, 2009.

Associated Press

### MEANINGFUL BREAKTHROUGH

*Continued from Front Page*

Obama suggested that the five-nation agreement would be adopted by the larger summit in its closing hours.

"I am leaving before the final vote," he said. "We feel confident we are moving in the direction of a final accord."

If the countries had waited to reach a full, binding agreement, "then we wouldn't make any progress," Obama said. In that case, he said, "there might be such frustration and cynicism that rather than taking one step forward we ended up taking two steps back."

German Chancellor Angela Merkel she viewed the outcome with "mixed feelings," adding that the negotiations were extremely difficult.

Obama spent the final scheduled day of the climate talks huddling with world leaders, including Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao, in a bid to salvage the global warming accord amid deep divisions between rich and poor nations. In announcing the five-nation deal, Obama said getting a legally binding treaty "is going to be very hard, and it's going to take some time."

"We have come a long way, but we have much further to go," he said.

The president said there was a "fundamental deadlock in perspectives" between big, industrially developed countries like the United States and poorer, though sometimes large, developing nations. Still he said this week's efforts "will help us begin to meet our responsibilities to leave our children and grandchildren a cleaner planet."

The deal as described by Obama reflects some progress helping poor nations cope with climate change and getting China to disclose its actions to address the warming problem. He said the nations of the world will have to take more aggressive steps to combat global warming. The first step, he said, is to build trust between developed and developing

countries.

The five-nation agreement includes a method for verifying reductions of heat-trapping gases, the official said. That was a key demand by Washington of China, which has resisted international efforts to monitor its actions.

"It's not what we expected," Brazilian Ambassador Sergio Barbosa Serra said. "It may still be a way of salvaging something and paving the way for another a meeting or series of meetings next year."

Obama had planned to spend only about nine hours in Copenhagen as the summit wrapped up. But, as an agreement appeared within reach, he extended his stay by more than six hours to attend a series of meetings aimed at brokering a deal.

New Zealand's climate change ambassador Adrian Macey called it "a modest deal."

"I see Kyoto as a first step," Macey said. "This another first step, a global first step."

More than anything, Macey found the U.N. process on climate change "appalling."

John Sauven, executive director of Greenpeace UK, decried that "there are no targets for carbon cuts and no agreement on a legally binding treaty."

The two-week, 193-nation conference has been plagued by growing distrust between rich and poor nations.

Both sides blamed the other for failing to take ambitious action. At one point, African delegates staged a partial boycott of the talks.

"We are ready to get this done today but there has to be movement on all sides to recognize that is better for us to act rather than talk," Obama had told the conference, insisting on a transparent way to monitor each nation's pledges to cut emissions.

Abandoning any hope of a comprehensive deal, a group of about 25 countries had sought agreement on a two-page political statement setting out critical elements, key among them the mobilization of \$30 billion in the next three years to help poor countries cope with climate change and a scaling up to \$100 billion a year by 2020.

As negotiations evolved, new drafts of the document, titled the Copenhagen Accord, emerged with key clauses being inserted,

deleted and reintroduced with new wording.

In the end, the statement set no overall emissions targets for rich countries.

South Korea's chief negotiator, Rae-Kwon Chung, said one of the sticking points was a clause saying the combined emissions of rich and poor countries should be cut in half by 2050. Some developing countries opposed that target, fearing it would "define their carbon space," he said, declining to identify them.

With the climate talks in disarray, Obama and Wen met twice — once privately and once with other world leaders present — in hopes of sweeping aside some of the disputes that have barred a final deal. Officials said the two leaders took a step forward in their talk and directed negotiators to keep working, but the degree of progress was not immediately clear.

Wen skipped a high-level meeting a second time and sent another envoy instead.

Later Friday, Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton held talks with European leaders, including British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, French President Nicolas Sarkozy and German Chancellor Angela Merkel. Reporters asked how negotiations were going as Obama walked into the meeting. "Always hopeful," he replied.

Many delegates had been looking to China and the U.S. — the world's two largest carbon polluters — to deepen their pledges to cut their emissions. But that was not to be.

Swedish Environment Minister Andreas Carlgren, negotiating on behalf of the 27-nation European Union, blamed the impasse on the Chinese for "blocking again and again," and on the U.S. for coming too late with an improved offer, a long-range climate aid program announced Thursday by Clinton.

The U.S. got its share of blame.

"President Obama was not very proactive. He didn't offer anything more," said delegate Thomas Negints, from Papua New Guinea. He said his country had hoped for "more on emissions, put more money on the table, take the lead." □

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# Obama: U.S., Russia 'quite close' on new arms treaty

DESMOND BUTLER  
JENNIFER LOVEN

Associated Press Writers

COPENHAGEN (AP) —

President Barack Obama and his Russian counterpart Dmitry Medvedev struck an optimistic tone even as they conceded that they were unlikely to sign a deal this year on a successor to an expired nuclear arms control treaty, as they had hoped.

The two leaders met Friday as negotiators are seeking to bridge differences on elusive details of a successor to the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty.

Obama said Friday that they were "quite close." He had wanted a new deal in place before the end of the year, but that appeared unlikely. The hold up has denied the White House a quick boost in its efforts to demonstrate improved relations with Moscow. The Obama administration had identified a successor to the START treaty as among the most achievable areas of cooperation with Russia, as it seeks broader help from Moscow on issues including reining in Iran's suspected nuclear ambitions.

Although the 1991 START treaty expired Dec. 5, both countries have agreed to continue to honor its main provisions, pending the completion and legal ratification of a successor treaty.

Emerging from private talks with Medvedev on the sidelines of the U.N. climate conference, Obama expressed confidence that a successor pact will be agreed to in a "timely fashion." Medvedev said technical details still needed to be worked out.

Both leaders made only

brief statements to reporters and took no questions. Neither one said anything about a possible timetable for signing a deal.

"We've been making excellent progress," Obama said. "I'm confident that it will be completed in a timely fashion."

Medvedev largely echoed Obama's expressions of optimism.

Despite the hopeful words, a senior administration official familiar with Friday's discussions in Copenhagen said there was no new progress. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly. U.S. arms control advocates expressed disappointment.

"The likely failure of the U.S. and Russia to come to an agreement before the end of the year is deeply disappointing," said Daryl G. Kimball, executive director of the private Arms Control Association. He said both sides must show greater flexibility in order to resolve the few remaining issues.

News agencies cited Medvedev aide Sergei Prikhodko as saying a treaty signing will not happen this year. Prikhodko said no signing date was being announced to avoid putting excess pressure on the negotiators, who are meeting in Geneva.

U.S. officials, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the talks, said negotiations had become hung up on a disagreement over how to monitor the development of new intercontinental ballistic missiles.

Officials said U.S. negotiators would continue

working with their Russian counterparts through the weekend. But negotiators plan to break for the Christmas holiday and return to the bargaining table in the new year, a U.S. official said Friday, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak on the record.

Signed by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. President George H.W. Bush, that treaty required each country to cut its nuclear warheads by at least one-fourth, to about 6,000, and to implement procedures for verifying that each side was sticking to the agreement.



Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, left, and President Barack Obama hold talks after a session of the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark, Friday, Dec. 18, 2009.

Associated Press

At a summit in Moscow last July, Obama and Medvedev agreed to cut the number of nuclear warheads on each side to between 1,500 and 1,675 within seven years, as

part of a broad new treaty. They initially had instructed negotiators to seek a fully ratified deal by the Dec. 5 expiration. □

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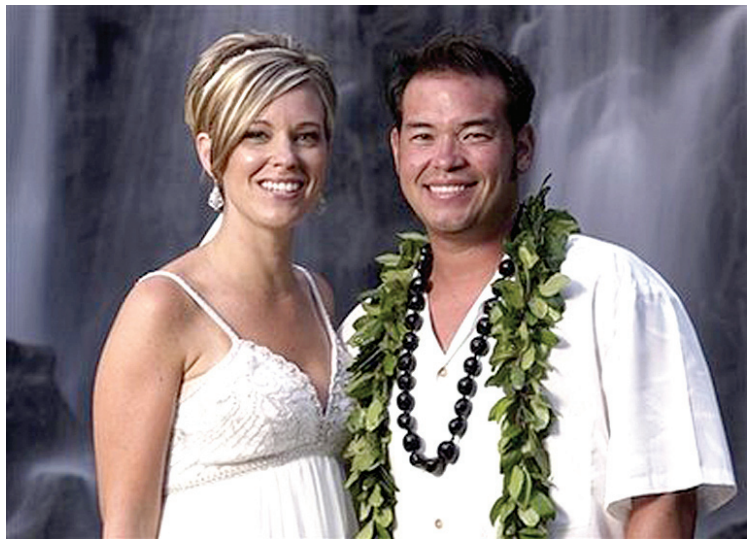
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# Gosselin divorce final; Kate gets house and kids



FILE - This image released by TLC, shows Jon Gosselin, right, and his wife Kate Gosselin, from the TLC series 'Jon & Kate Plus 8,' in Hawaii.

By MARYCLAIRE DALE, Associated Press Writer  
PHILADELPHIA — Jon and Kate Gosselin officially divorced Friday after 10 years of marriage, eight children and a year of tabloid headlines. Kate Gosselin gets the family home in eastern Pennsylvania in the no-fault divorce agreement, according to her lawyer, Mark Momjian. She will also continue as the primary caretaker of the reality TV couple's 9-year-old twins and 5-year-old sextuplets. "Divorce is always a difficult process, and in this case there's obviously the added challenge of being a celebrity and having to deal with the reality of such a large family," Momjian told The Associated Press. "But I know she is very excited about restructuring her life and looking forward to the new year."

Jon's lawyer, Mark Jay Heller,

(AP Photo/TLC, Mark Arbeit)

was traveling Friday and not available for comment, a spokesman said. The divorce agreement was first reported by TMZ.com.

The Gosselins — he is 32, she is 34 — worked out custody arrangements themselves but let an arbiter decide financial issues, Momjian said.

They filed for divorce in June, the same month they told viewers of TLC's "Jon & Kate Plus 8" about the split in an episode seen by more than 10 million people.

At the time, the Gosselins said the show had been a good thing for both them and their children, and they denied it played a role in their divorce. However, Jon Gosselin later insisted that the network stop filming his children, thwarting plans to segue the show into "Kate Plus Eight" and focus on her role as a single parent.

TLC has said it is developing a

show for her that could debut this spring. Details have not been disclosed.

The network, meanwhile, has sued Jon Gosselin for breach of contract over allegedly paid appearances on rival networks, as well as over other issues.

The couple spoke on their show of plans to take turns with the children in their sprawling new home in Wernersville, about 50 miles northwest of Philadelphia. However, Momjian declined to say whether that remains the plan.

"This is her home now," Momjian said. However, he added, "she clearly wants the children to be involved in both parents' lives."

In a statement issued by her lawyer's firm, Kate Gosselin called the marital breakup difficult.

"I am very relieved that our divorce has been finalized, and I look forward to the new year, focusing on the children," said Kate Gosselin, a former nurse. "This has been a challenging transition for all of us."

Momjian called Kate Gosselin "a very responsible parent."

"She is fully confident that the children's needs, both financially and emotionally, are being taken care of," he said.

The final "Jon & Kate Plus 8" episode aired Nov. 23 and showed the parents taking their children on separate outings. □



In this image from video released by MTV, high school senior Catelynn, right, and her boyfriend Tyler are shown with a framed photo of their daughter Carly in a scene from the teen reality series, 'Teen Mom.' As a junior, Catelynn got pregnant and had Carly. Both Catelynn and Tyler believed that adoption was the best choice.

(AP Photo/MTV)

## 'Teen Mom' shows interrupted lives

By ALICIA RANCILIO, Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — Amber Portwood's lunch with a friend keeps getting interrupted by a crying baby. The problem is, the baby is Amber's. She packs up and leaves the restaurant before she can finish eating.

Quieting a fussy baby is all in a day's work for the 19-year-old and her co-stars on MTV's new reality show, "Teen Mom" (10 p.m. EST Tuesdays). The show premiered to the highest rated series on the network in more than a year.

The girls on the show aren't strangers to cameras — they were also on MTV's "16 and Pregnant," which aired last summer. "Teen Mom" revisits the young mothers several months after giving birth.

"I really just wanted to show girls how hard it was to be a teen parent," says Maci Bookout, 17, of her decision to let her experience be filmed for TV.

Bookout was a popular high school student with good grades and plans to go to college. Her path changed when she got pregnant by her boyfriend and gave birth to a son named Bentley. Instead of going away to college, Maci's priority now is taking care of her baby.

"I wanted girls who might get pregnant to see there are options out there to move forward with your life and still have goals," says Bookout, who plans to marry her baby's father and would like to have another child.

Not all the young women on "Teen Mom" chose to keep their babies. Catelynn Lowell, 17, for example, gave her daughter up for adoption last May.

"It was difficult because that's my daughter. ... I knew in my heart it was the best (decision) so I just went forward with it," she says. Catelynn and the baby's father, Tyler Baltierra, are still together and live with Tyler's mom.

Lowell says she definitely wants to have children but wants to wait until she has finished with college, has a career and is married.

Dr. Jenn Berman, a psychotherapist, says that teen relationships usually do not last.

"I think that it is a beautiful idea and I think the love and passion we feel when we are teenagers is so intense we believe it will last forever, but statistically speaking the odds are not in their favor that their relationships will last," says Berman, who worries that teens might think reality TV stars are celebrities and the show celebrates teen pregnancy. □

## Alicia Keys finds "freedom" from Motown sound

By Joshua Schneyer

NEW YORK (Reuters) — A music industry desperate for bankable superstars has all but anointed Alicia Keys as heir to the golden era of Motown, when Aretha Franklin, Smokey Robinson and others made it seem easy to pump out timeless R&B hits.

Keys, however, is haunted by the prospect.

"The Motown era, the songs did something to you that you couldn't get enough of, they sent the hairs on your skin standing up and taught you about what love really is and life is," Keys, the 28-year-old hitmaker, told Reuters. "I think about it, all the time." In many ways, Keys' fourth and newest album that hit stores this week, "The Element of Freedom," is a

rebellious thrust away from a Nu-Motown sound that helped to win many fans.

Keys' earlier albums were filled with pleading love songs belted-out in her raspy voice, backed by her gospel-inflected piano playing. While "Element of Freedom" offers fewer soul-baring moments from behind the piano, it serves up many catchy, ringtone-worthy melodies, crunchy drum beats and synthesized grooves. In the single, "Try Sleeping With a Broken Heart," Keys hits unmistakable pop pay dirt. The drum machine and organ sound like something from Prince's early 1980s playbook. And a duet with Beyonce, "Put It In a Love Song," might pack nightclub dance floors with its strong, bottom-heavy beat. □



# BUSINESS

## Aruba TODAY

# Tech stocks pull market out of 3-day slide

By TIM PARADIS,  
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — The stock market broke a three-day slide as two big technology companies signaled that business was improving, raising hopes about business spending.

Tech stocks led the market higher in choppy trading Friday. Software company Oracle Corp. and BlackBerry maker Research In Motion Ltd. each posted earnings that topped expectations.

The better results at Oracle, which makes software for large businesses, suggested that companies are becoming

more willing to spend on technology projects. Research In Motion increased profits as it added subscribers and record sales of its smartphones. Palm Inc., however, reported a wider second-quarter loss than analysts predicted as sales fell.

Burt White, chief investment officer at LPL Financial in Boston, said the reports lifted technology shares because investors saw it as a sign that profits could grow and help other parts of the economy that are struggling.

“What is going to drive this recovery is an improvement in business spending, not

consumer spending,” he said.

After a volatile morning, the market settled out in the afternoon trading as more investors looked to close their books for the year. Trading will be shortened next week because of the Christmas holiday on Friday.

The day began with a frenzy of buying and selling as several types of options contracts expired. Volatility was also high as several stocks were added to and dropped from the Standard & Poor’s 500 index, a widely used benchmark and the basis for many indexed mutual funds.

According to preliminary

## GM to end Saab brand after talks with buyer fail

By DAN STRUMPE,  
AP Auto Writer

NEW YORK — General Motors is killing off another well-known brand — Saab, a quirky line of cars known for angular roof lines and ignition keyholes between the front seats — after talks with a Dutch would-be buyer collapsed.

GM, Dutch automaker Spyker Cars and the government of Sweden, where Saabs are made, were in discussions as late as Friday morning. Spyker said the sale was too complicated to complete quickly. GM declined to elaborate on why the deal failed.

“We worked 24/7 for three weeks, but the complexity of the transaction in combination with the strict deadline simply did not allow us to complete the transaction,” said Victor Muller, CEO of Spyker, a producer of exotic sports cars. The announcement almost certainly means the death of a brand with a small but devoted following.

Enthusiasts appreciated

touches like placing the ignition lock between the front seats rather than on the steering column. Saabs were also known for unusual design, with flatter front windshields and sloping rear windshields that gave the cars an almost backward silhouette.

Saab was also a pioneer in turbocharged engines, beginning with the release of the Saab 99 in the 1970s, and the first carmaker to offer heated seating, in 1971. In his namesake sitcom, Jerry Seinfeld was a proud Saab owner.

GM bought a 50 percent stake and management control of Saab for \$600 million after it split from Swedish truck maker Scania in 1989. It bought full ownership in 2000 for \$125 million more.

Even after the GM takeover, Saab remained closely associated with Sweden and its history of making safe, reliable cars. But GM never made money on the acquisition. Industry analysts complained Saab lost its



FILE - In this Feb 23, 2009 file photo the logos of Saab and General Motors, GM, are seen in front of a car dealer in Stuttgart, Germany. General Motors Co. will wind down Saab after talks to sell the brand to Dutch carmaker Spyker Cars collapsed Friday, Dec. 18, 2009.

(AP Photo/Thomas Kienzle, File)

distinctiveness in the crowded market for luxury cars under GM, which stripped it of its angular design.

“More and more frequently, they were using GM platforms and sheet metals, moving away from that uniqueness based on styling,” said Tom Libby, an independent Detroit-area auto analyst. □



FILE - In this Oct. 2, 2008 file photo, a newspaper headline is taped to a booth on the New York Stock Exchange floor.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew, File)

calculations, the Dow Jones industrial average rose 20.63, or 0.2 percent, to 10,328.89, after dropping 133 points Thursday.

The broader S&P 500 index rose 6.39, or 0.6 percent, to 1,102.47, and the technology-heavy Nasdaq composite index rose 31.64, or 1.5 percent, to 2,211.69.

For the week, the Dow fell 1.4 percent, the S&P 500 index fell 0.4 percent and the Nasdaq rose 1 percent.

Stocks had tumbled on Thursday as the dollar spiked on worries about debt problems in Europe. A higher dollar can cut into profits of U.S. companies that do business overseas.

The market lost ground earlier in the week after a jump in inflation raised concerns that the Federal Reserve would be forced to raise interest rates. The Fed said Wednesday that it expected to leave interest rates low to help boost the economy.

Christian Bendixen, director of technical research at Bay Crest Partners LLC in New York, expects stocks will push higher until early next year even as the dollar climbs. A rise in the dollar could crimp profits of U.S. companies but could also signal growing confidence in the U.S. economy.

“In the short term, the dollar and equities can rally together,” he said.

Next week, investors will be looking to reports on home sales, consumer sentiment and demand for durable manufactured goods. Analysts have been looking for clues about the strength of holiday sales since spending accounts for a majority of U.S. economic activity.

Bond prices fell, pushing their yields higher, as investors moved back into stocks following Thursday’s slide. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note rose to 3.55 percent from 3.48 percent late Thursday.

The dollar mostly rose against other major currencies, while gold prices fell.

Crude oil rose 34 cents to settle at \$74.42 per barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Three stocks rose for every two stocks that fell on New York Stock Exchange, where volume came to a heavy 3.2 billion shares compared with 1.7 billion Thursday.

Trading volume was heavy because of the occurrence of a quarterly “quadruple witching,” which marks the simultaneous expiration of four kinds of options and futures contracts. □



# SPORTS

## Aruba TODAY



Indianapolis Colts wide receiver Reggie Wayne (87) hauls in a 65-yard touchdown pass in front of Jacksonville Jaguars safety Reggie Nelson (25) during the second half of an NFL football game in Jacksonville, Fla., Thursday, Dec. 17, 2009. Indianapolis won 35-31.

Associated Press

## Colts stay unbeaten with 35-31 win over Jaguars

MARK LONG,  
AP Sports Writer

JACKSONVILLE, Florida (AP) — Peyton Manning completed every pass early and one big one late, as the Indianapolis Colts stayed unbeaten with a 35-31 win over the Jacksonville Jaguars in the NFL on Thursday.

Manning threw for 308 yards and four touchdowns, including a 65-yarder to Reggie Wayne to put the Colts ahead for good as they improved to 14-0 for the first time in franchise history.

The eventful game included 714 yards, 43 first downs, 10 lead changes, six punts, several big plays and just two turnovers.

"Today was a great test against a good team," Manning said. "Feel real good about the win."

The Jaguars had a chance to win it with a minute left, but David Garrard overthrew Mike Thomas on a third-and-10 play. Jacob Lacey intercepted the ball, and the Colts ran out the clock.

Indianapolis extended its NFL-record winning streak in the regular season to 23 and became the third 14-0 team in league history, joining the 1972 Miami Dolphins and 2007 New England Patriots. New Orleans can join the list with a victory over the Dallas Cowboys on Saturday. Jacksonville lost for the third time in the four

games and no longer controls its fate in the AFC wild-card race. Manning completed his first 13 passes and finished 23 of 30, picking apart Jacksonville's secondary early and often. Wayne caught five passes for 132 yards. Dallas Clark had seven receptions for 95 yards and two scores. Jaguars quarterback Garrard was 23 of 40 for 223 yards with three touchdowns. Maurice Jones-Drew ran 27 times for 110 yards and a score. But once the Jaguars got behind and abandoned the running game, they had trouble sustaining drives.

Pre-game talk that Indianapolis would rest some key players proved inaccurate. Defensive ends Dwight Freeney and Robert Mathis played sparingly, but Manning, Wayne, Clark and the other stars played the entire game.

The key moment came with 5:23 remaining, when Manning found Wayne streaking down the sideline for a 65-yard reception. Jaguars safety Reggie Nelson seemed to be fooled by Manning's pump fake, allowing Wayne to get behind the coverage.

"Reggie just used his speed," Manning said. "What a great job once he caught the ball to get into the end zone."

The first half was a back-and-forth affair that took a little more than an hour to play.

Continued on Page 14



Michael Phelps of the US, swims his leg as his team break the world record in the Men's 4 x 100 Medley Relay, at the Manchester Aquatic Centre, during The Duel in the Pool swimming competition, Manchester, England, Friday Dec. 18, 2009. A United States team including Michael Phelps in his first United Kingdom appearance took on a European team comprising of British, German and Italian swimmers.

Associated Press

## Phelps helps U.S. dominate Euros in Duel in the Pool

ROB HARRIS

AP Sports Writer

MANCHESTER, England (AP) — Michael Phelps helped the United States set five world short-course records and dominate Europe in the Duel in the Pool on Friday.

The Americans won 11 of the 14 events to lead 89-33 at the halfway point of the two-day meet at Manchester Aquatics Centre.

"We wanted to come here and try to keep the ball rolling and it's definitely a good start," Phelps said. "Everything's a stepping stone to 2012."

In Phelps' first competitive appearance in England, the 14-time Olympic champion demonstrated he was focused on London 2012.

While most of his competitors are sucking every last second in the pool out of the high-tech suits that will be outlawed on Jan. 1, Phelps continued to sacrifice short-term gain to get reacquainted with the old-style, textile knee-length outfits.

Phelps hopes that will give him a decisive edge over competitors in the new year, although it saw him fail to win a single race at two World Cup short-course meets in Europe last month.

"I'm definitely happier about how things went here, having the opportunity to swim short-course meters again since the World Cup," Phelps said. "I was faster here than I was there. It just shows things are moving in the right direction. Ever since the World Cups I've been wearing the Jammer and that's probably what I'm going to wear for the rest of my career with the rule changes.

"To come back to the Jammer means putting more time and energy into having to work harder and having to make sure I'm in better shape."

In the 4x100-meter medley relay, Phelps swam the third leg as the American men set a world record of 3 minutes, 20.71 seconds, breaking the 3:23.33 set by Canada in August. □



NBA Roundup

# Trail Blazers come back to edge Suns

PORTLAND, Oregon (AP) — Jerryd Bayless had a career-high 29 points and made three free throws in the final 9 seconds to give the Portland Trail Blazers a comeback 105-102 win over the Phoenix Suns in the NBA on Thursday.

Brandon Roy added 27 points and eight rebounds for the injury plagued Blazers, who trailed by 15 points in the third quarter.

Bayless made 1-of-2 free throws with four seconds left to give Portland a three-point lead. Steve Nash's off-balance 3-point attempt bounced off the rim as time expired.

Amare Stoudemire had 27 points for the Suns, who have lost six straight on the road for the first time since 2003-04.

## Heat 104, Magic 86

In Miami, the hosts were in control throughout for a surprisingly comfortable win over the Eastern Conference champion Orlando.

Dwyane Wade had 25 points and seven assists and Michael Beasley added 22 points for the Heat, who beat their Florida rivals for the second time in as many meetings this season.

Dwight Howard finished with 17 points and 14 rebounds for the Magic.

## Bulls 98, Knicks 89

In Chicago, the home team came from 17 points down to beat New York.

Luol Deng scored 24 points and John Salmons added 20 for the Bulls, who took control with a 15-2 run in the fourth quarter. Salmons scored seven points in the final 48 seconds, hitting a key 3-pointer.

The Knicks led by 17 in the first quarter thanks to a torrid start by Al Harrington, who scored 14 of his 18 points in the period. New York attempted an NBA-record 29 3-pointers in the first half, hitting nine. The Knicks finished 16 of 47

from long range, setting an NBA season high for 3-point tries. □

Portland Trail Blazers guard Brandon Roy, middle, scores against Phoenix Suns forward Channing Frye, left, as Blazers center Joel Przybilla watches during the second half of their NBA basketball game in Portland, Ore., Thursday, Dec. 17, 2009. Roy scored 27 points as the Blazers beat the Suns 105-102.

Associated Press



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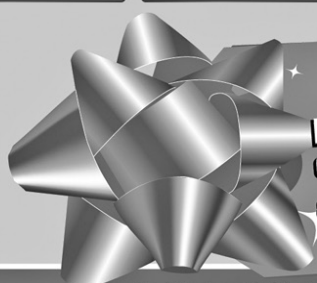
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## NHL Roundup

# Flames win, cost Kings lead in NHL West



Indianapolis Colts quarterback Peyton Manning (18) greets Jacksonville Jaguars quarterback David Garrard on the field after an NFL football game in Jacksonville, Fla., Thursday, Dec. 17, 2009. Indianapolis won 35-31.

CALGARY, Alberta (AP) — The Calgary Flames beat Los Angeles 2-1 in Thursday's clash of NHL divisional leaders, costing the Kings outright leadership of the Western Conference.

Miikka Kiprusoff made 34 saves for Calgary, which opened the scoring in the final second of the first period through Dion Phaneuf and went ahead 2-0 early in the third period when Nigel Dawes scored his 10th of the season.

Los Angeles' Corey Elkins scored his first NHL goal midway through the third.

The Kings dropped into a tie with divisional rival San Jose for the West leadership, while the Flames moved equal top of the Northwest Division with Colorado.

## Penguins 3, Flyers 2, SO

In Philadelphia, Pittsburgh reclaimed leadership of the Eastern Conference with a shootout win over Philadelphia.

Kris Letang and Sidney

Crosby scored in a shootout to give Pittsburgh its fourth straight victory.

Crosby, who also scored in regulation, is 5-for-5 in shootouts this season and Pittsburgh is 5-0 in the tiebreakers. Bill Guerin also scored for the Penguins.

Jeff Carter and Claude Giroux scored for Philadelphia.

## Sharks 4, Ducks 1

In San Jose, California, San Jose ended a five-game losing skid and reclaimed a share of the Western Conference lead by beating Anaheim.

Patrick Marleau scored twice in the second period, while Joe Thornton and Devin Setoguchi also scored for the Sharks.

Ryan Getzlaf had a power-play goal for Anaheim.

## Predators 6, Oilers 3

In Edmonton, Alberta, Patrick Hornqvist scored two goals and had an assist to help Nashville stretch its unbeaten streak to six.

Ryan Jones, Joel Ward, Marcel Goc and Jerred Smithson also scored for Nashville, tied

with Chicago for the Central Division lead.

Robert Nilsson had two power-play goals for Edmonton, and Lubomir Visnovsky also scored.

## Coyotes 2, Blue Jackets 1, SO

In Columbus, Ohio, Robert Lang scored the deciding shootout goal as Phoenix edged Columbus.

Jason LaBarbera made 38 saves for the Coyotes, whose regulation goal came from Keith Yandle.

Rick Nash countered for the Blue Jackets.

## Thrashers 6, Stars 5, OT

In Atlanta, Rich Peverley scored his second goal of the game early in overtime to give Atlanta a narrow win over Dallas.

Ondrej Pavelec stopped 42 shots in Atlanta's first home win over Dallas.

Loui Eriksson had forced overtime when he scored for Dallas with 1:12 remaining in regulation — after the Stars pulled their goalie for an extra

attacker.

Maxim Afinogenov, Ilya Kovalchuk, Jim Slater and Nik Antropov also scored for the Thrashers. Stephane Robidas scored twice for the Stars, and Jamie Benn and Jere Lehtinen added goals.

## Red Wings 3, Lightning 0

In Detroit, goalie Jimmy Howard made 30 saves for his first NHL shutout as Detroit downed Tampa Bay.

Drew Miller, Todd Bertuzzi and Patrick Eaves scored for Detroit.

The Red Wings lost yet another player when center Henrik Zetterberg left the game because of an upper-body injury late in the first period after a crushing hit by Tampa Bay defenseman Mattias Ohlund.

## Wild 3, Canadiens 1

In Montreal, Mikko Koivu broke a first-period tie with a power-play goal that put Minnesota ahead to stay against Montreal.

Niklas Backstrom made 30

saves for Minnesota.

Robbie Earl opened the scoring for the Wild early before Andrei Kostitsyn drew Montreal level soon after.

Koivu restored Minnesota's one-goal lead with his 10th goal of the season, and Cal Clutterbuck also scored for the visitors.

The Canadiens are winless in five.

## Rangers 5, Islanders 2

In Uniondale, New York, the Rangers snapped a five-game losing streak with victory in this all-New York clash.

Henrik Lundqvist stopped 35 shots, Ryan Callahan scored a pair of goals and added two assists, and Marian Gaborik had his NHL-leading 24th goal and two assists as the Rangers split the series.

Chris Drury and Artem Anisimov also had goals for the Rangers.

Andrew MacDonald got his first NHL goal and Frans Nielsen added a late consolation for the Islanders.



## NFL ROUNDUP

### Continued from Page 12

Manning was perfect in the first half, completing 12 of 12 passes for 116 yards and had touchdown passes to Clark and Austin Collie. Clark made a sliding grab in the back of the end zone for a 7-3 lead early in the second quarter. Collie's catch, which he briefly bobbled at the goal line, put the Colts ahead 21-17.

The Jaguars got within field-goal range just before halftime, but Josh Scobee came up short on a long 57-yard attempt. Jacksonville was also strong in the first half. Garrard completed 12 of 16 passes for 97 yards, and one of his best plays of the season resulted in a touchdown.

He faked a handoff, rolled left, then spun around and headed across the field. Tailback Maurice Jones-Drew, who had been blocking, darted toward the end zone and Garrard lofted a perfect pass for the score.



# Woods wins U.S. PGA Tour player of the year

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Florida (AP) — Tiger Woods was voted the U.S. PGA Tour player of the year by the players on Friday, the 10th time in his 13 years on tour that he has won the award.

The tour does not disclose vote totals.

Woods started and finished the season the same way — with questions when he would return.

He was coming off knee surgery at the beginning of the year, and last week announced an indefinite leave to work on his marriage after admitting to infidelity.

In between, he won six tour events, captured the FedEx Cup and its \$10 million bonus, won the money title for the ninth time in his career with over \$10.5 million, and had the lowest scoring average for the ninth time.

No one else won more than three times on

the U.S. PGA Tour. It was only the second time that Woods was voted player of the year when he did not win a major. In a peculiar twist, Woods won in his final start before each of the four majors.

Marc Leishman of Australia was voted tour rookie of the year, becoming the first since Charles Howell III in 2001 to win the award without having won a tournament. Leishman was the only rookie to reach the FedEx Cup finale at the Tour Championship.

Players voted on the awards over the last month, with balloting ending on Friday.

It was the eighth time that Woods has swept all the major U.S. PGA Tour honors — Byron Nelson Award for the lowest adjusted scoring average (68.05), Arnold Palmer Award for the money title and Jack Nicklaus Award for player of the year. □



The sun reflects off Tiger Woods' club as he hits from the fairway on the ninth hole during the first round of the Deutsche Bank Championship golf tournament in Norton, Mass., in this Sept. 4, 2009 file photo.

*Associated Press*



This is a Sept. 30, 2000, file photo showing members of the U.S. women's 1600 meter relay team, from left, Jearl Miles-Clark, Monique Hennagan, La Tasha Colander-Richardson, and Marion Jones displaying their gold medals during award ceremonies at the Summer Olympics in Sydney.

*Associated Press*

STEPHEN WILSON

AP Sports Writer

LONDON (AP) — Two U.S. women's relay teams lost a preliminary ruling Friday in their fight to keep the Olympic medals stripped from them because of Marion Jones' doping offenses.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport rejected a motion by the runners against a decision by the International Olympic Committee last year to take away their gold and bronze medals from the 2000 Sydney Games.

CAS dismissed the runners' claim that the IOC was not entitled to disqualify them beyond a three-year period

after the games. CAS will schedule hearings next year into the full merits of the case, a process which could drag on for months.

"We acknowledge the decision of CAS and are now awaiting their final judgment on this matter," the IOC said in a statement.

Jones helped the U.S. women win gold in the 4x400 relay in Sydney and bronze in the 4x100 relay.

Jones admitted in 2007 that she was using performance-enhancing drugs at the time. She was stripped of all five medals, including gold in the 100 and 200 meters and bronze in the long jump.

## Jones' relay teammates lose ruling to keep medals

The IOC stripped the relay medals in 2008 from her U.S. teammates, who appealed to CAS in Lausanne, Switzerland, on grounds that they should not be punished for Jones' drug violations.

Jones' teammates on the 4x400 squad were Jearl Miles-Clark, Monique Hennagan, LaTasha Colander Clark and Andrea Anderson. Chryste Gaines, Torri Edwards, Nanceen Perry and Passion Richardson were on the 4x100 team. All but Perry are included in the CAS appeal.

CAS ruled Friday that the IOC had the right to disqualify the relay runners, even though the decision came eight years after the Sydney Olympics. The athletes had cited an IOC rule that no Olympic decision could be challenged more than three years after the closing ceremony.

But CAS said the IOC acted on information provided by the International Association of Athletics Federations and did not issue an actual "decision" in the matter.

"The CAS panel has considered that the three-year rule did not prevent the IOC from withdrawing medals which were awarded at a victory ceremony because the distribution of medals, which occurs immediately after the race, is not in itself a 'decision,'" CAS said.

The IOC ruling on the medals would have been automatically overturned had CAS determined the three-year rule was applicable.

"In these circumstances, the CAS will summon the parties to a hearing and proceed to render a decision on the merits of the dispute," it said.

CAS secretary general Mattieu Reeb said the next hearing would probably take place after February's Winter

Olympics in Vancouver. The hearing would likely be held either in New York or Lausanne.

Jamaica took silver behind the U.S. in the 4x400 relay and will move up to gold if the standings are adjusted. Russia would move from bronze to silver and Nigeria from fourth to third. In the 4x100, France stands to be upgraded from fourth to bronze.

Last week, the IOC executive board reallocated Jones' individual Sydney medals, but refused to promote Greek sprinter Katerina Thanou from silver to gold in the 100 because she allegedly evaded drug tests on the eve of the 2004 Athens Olympics and staged a motorcycle accident as a coverup. □





# Packers to face battered Steelers

**BARRY WILNER**  
 AP Football Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — What is wrong with the Pittsburgh Steelers? The Super Bowl champions seem unable to figure it out, and with the Green Bay Packers going to Heinz Field on Sunday the answers might not come against a true playoff contender.

Pittsburgh has dropped five straight games after winning five in a row, something expected from a middling team with a weak foundation, or a rebuilding club. But from the Steelers?

“In this league, there’s a very fine line between winning and losing,” coach Mike Tomlin says. “The line is not so fine when you’re playing dominant ... But when you’re not playing dominant, we’ve got to find a way to make significant plays at correct moments.”

Even if they find the way, it probably is too late for the Steelers to get into the NFL playoffs. Sure, 24 teams remain in contention for playoff berths, but Pittsburgh needs to sweep its last three games just to stay viable.

The first obstacle is a huge one. Green Bay has gone in



Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger (7) is sacked for a loss by Cleveland Browns defensive tackle Corey Williams in the first quarter of an NFL football game Thursday, Dec. 10, 2009, in Cleveland.

the exact opposite direction from where the Steelers are headed, winning five straight to take hold of the top NFC wild-card berth. The Packers’ new 3-4 defense has become formidable and their offensive weapons have found holes in the best defenses. Right now, the Steelers, without star safety Troy Polamalu, don’t have that kind of defense.

The unbeaten New Orleans

Saints could follow the unbeaten Indianapolis Colts by clinching home-field advantage throughout the playoffs when they host the struggling Dallas Cowboys on Saturday. The Saints also need the Minnesota Vikings to lose against the Carolina Panthers.

Even with the Saints, who are 13-0 for the first time, staring at history, this matchup is far more critical

for the Cowboys, who have gone from leading the NFC East division to barely holding onto a wild-card slot.

The San Diego Chargers travel to the Cincinnati Bengals knowing a win on Sunday would give them a playoff spot. A Denver Broncos defeat to the Oakland Raiders would also make the AFC West division theirs, too.

*Associated Press*

San Diego’s eight-game winning string has been obscured somewhat by the two unbeaten teams.

“As good as they can be going, they can turn in the other direction,” Chargers quarterback Philip Rivers said of fortunate plays. “Just because you win eight in row doesn’t mean you’re going to win the ninth. As we found out last year, there’s a lot that can happen in the last two weeks of the season. We’ve just got to carry on like we have and take care of business.”

Cincinnati will take care of business in the AFC North with a victory, but the Bengals must get their passing game back on track, and they easily could be distracted by the tragic death of receiver Chris Henry.

**Also on Sunday, it’s Miami at Tennessee; Arizona at Detroit; Atlanta at the New York Jets; Houston at St. Louis; Chicago at Baltimore; New England at Buffalo; Cleveland at Kansas City; San Francisco at Philadelphia; Cincinnati at San Diego; Tampa Bay at Seattle; and Minnesota at Carolina.**

**On Monday, the New York Giants go to Washington** □



This is a Sept. 27, 2009, file photo showing St. Louis Rams guard Richie Incognito on the bench during the fourth quarter of an NFL football game against the Green Bay Packers, in St. Louis. Incognito was released by the St. Louis Rams, Tuesday Dec. 14, 2009, two days after coach Steve Spagnuolo benched the temperamental offensive guard for the second half of a loss at Tennessee.

*Associated Press*

## NFL fines Incognito \$50,000

NEW YORK (AP) — Richie Incognito was fined \$50,000 by the NFL on Friday for two unnecessary roughness fouls, punctuating a rough week for the guard.

Playing last Sunday in the St. Louis Rams’ 47-7 loss to the Tennessee Titans, Incognito head-butted Sen’Derrick Marks in the first half. He did the same thing to Vincent Fuller later in the half, then was benched by coach Steve Spagnuolo.

The Rams released him on Tuesday and he signed with the Buffalo Bills on Thursday.

Incognito was fined for the head-butt on Marks and for a late hit against Fuller. The infractions were his fifth and sixth for unnecessary roughness this season.

In a letter to Incognito, NFL executive vice president of football operations Ray Anderson wrote: “Future infractions of the types you have committed may lead to increased disciplinary action up to and including suspension.”

Tennessee linebacker Keith Bulluck was fined \$10,000 by the NFL for throwing a football into the stands in celebration after an interception.

Also fined was New York Jets linebacker Bart Scott, hit for \$5,000 for unnecessary roughness. Scott knocked the helmet off Tampa Bay’s Adam Hayward in New York’s 26-3 win, also drawing a 15-yard penalty.

On Wednesday, Giants center Shaun O’Hara and Eagles defensive end Trent Cole were fined \$15,000 each for a scuffle at the end of last Sunday’s game. □



*UndercoverWear Home Parties hosts*

## Agents enjoy Incentive Trip to Aruba

NOORD – Incentive group enjoys the unique ambiance of the famous Madame Jeanette

*Tonight in Oranjestad*

### Mambo Jambo hosts wild Season finale

ORANJESTAD - The Holiday Season will be wicked and wild at popular hang-out Mambo Jambo in the Royal Plaza Mall. Starting off on the road towards the finale of the December month is super singer Claudius Philips, who is playing with his band Oreo tonight on December 19. To get into the spirit of giving, Mambo Jambo is doling out great prizes, like dinners for two and even a hotel weekend-stay.

And for those who are planning ahead: write December 26 in your calendar as a Mambo Jambo night, as Privé is performing live, there are great X-mas prizes to be won and you can get a printed picture with a sexy Santa girl for free.

Mambo Jambo's New Year's Eve party promises to be fantastic as well, with DJ Diablo playing from 4 – 7 pm and then non-stop from 12.30 am until 6. Expect a champagne toast, free shots and fire works! The first fifty ladies receive free entry. □

Restaurant in Noord, Aruba. UndercoverWear, a 33 yr old, Boston based, Multi Million Dollar International Party plan currently in the North America & Canada, where customers book a "Girls Night Out" experience.

The UndercoverWear agent (Sales Representative) comes to a Hostess's home & invites all of her friends & family to a fun "Girls Night Out" The Sales agent brings an array of Lingerie both practical & Sexy pieces in sizes small-3X.

They believe no matter what size or age a woman is she deserves to treat herself to Something Special! We also have a "Pamper-Me-Spa line called UndercoverCare & Romance accessories called Bedroom Magic.

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where you can shop in the privacy of a living room.

Two of the Companies Top Leaders took their achievers on an incentive trip to Aruba. The two Executives are in front: Bobbie Gingiloski Vice President Field Seated left & Executive Director Kimberly Gaddes seated right.

They chose the Divi Golf Villas to stay in Aruba. The agents love Aruba & absolutely want to come back here again.

They feel that Aruba is truly a "Paradise on Earth" They will definitely return!!!

The names of the UndercoverWear agents in their guests are; Carol

Pyfferoen, Stephanie Lynch, Elvie & Mark Mertz, Kari Kilen, Scott Kilen, Lori Johnson, Deb Meldahl, Rosemary D'Amour & Peter Atkinson, Alicia Damon & Anthony Saunders, Jean & Scott Silberg, Maria Williams, Tammy & Rick Aylor. □

~ Photo by Julia Renfro ~

## Barry Rocklin live at Sopranos tonight

PALM BEACH - Barry Rocklin has been a mainstay on the international piano bar circuit for most of the past decade—between stints as musical director for renown musical productions from Miami to Montreal. Barry has journeyed from his home in suburban Boston to piano engagements at some of the world's finest piano bars and hotel lounges, including venues in Germany, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Canada, Japan, Iceland and Poland. And he is a favorite on board the Royal Caribbean Cruise Line.

Barry is a brilliant pianist with a strong voice, boundless enthusiasm and a performance flair uniquely his own. His love for music is obvious and infectious. With a memorized repertoire of more than 2,500 songs, Barry puts on a show guaranteed to surprise, energize and entertain audiences everywhere.

Mix and Mingle at Sopranos Bar where the Island's hippest bartenders have a flair for shaking it up! Serving up the Island's most extensive list of fine wines, boasting first-rate scotch and champagnes, you can expect top shelf service at Aruba's stylish new nightspot. At Sopranos outdoor surroundings you kick back with a Cuban cigar or cozy up with the club's signature cocktail; a Bikini Martini. □



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At Occidental Grand

# Anne & Bill celebrate their love at Sunset



OCCIDENTAL – This week Anne and Bill Grill of Michigan celebrated their honeymoon on the island of Aruba. They were united in matrimony back home before family and friends then jetted off to Aruba to celebrate their love for one another. The lovebirds love Aruba and plan to return over and over again.

Anne and Bill chose Aruba because it was out of the Hurricane belt and they knew a few people who have visited and raved about the island.

The photo shoot took place at the Occidental Grand Resort alongside the Caribbean ocean. Wedding Coordinator Kimberly Dammerman orchestrated the enchanted evening to the last detail of perfection and photography by Bella Aruba Photography.

Congratulations from Occidental Grand and Aruba Today!!!

~ Photos by Julia Renfro ~





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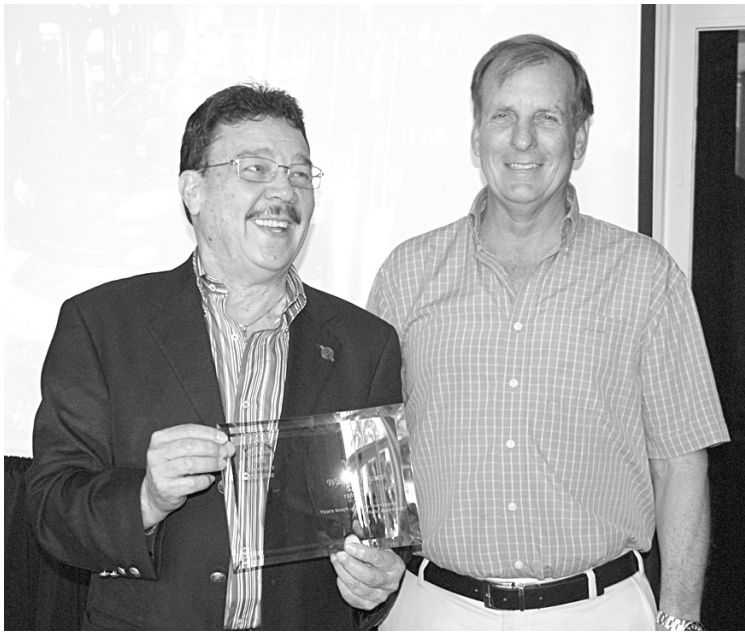
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## Crystal Casino celebrates its 20th anniversary



ORANJESTAD – A recent gathering at the Renaissance Ocean Suites brought together twenty-one colleagues who have been working together at Crystal Casino for 20



years. The festive occasion commemorated an important milestone in their lives, and the life of the busy casino and was honored by handsome engravings plaques and gifts at an informal cocktail party.

Presenting the plaques in celebration of long-term careers, Gerardo de Veer & Walter Theysen. Theysen who now works at the Renaissance Carnival Casino, Renaissance Curacao Resort & Casino as Casino Manager flew over to be able to celebrate with his esteemed peers.

“We’ve been together,” he said in his excellent notes, “for 20 years, we were younger, some of us had more hair, and it was darker, but we certainly had less experience. In the past two decades we grew professionally and we’re still going strong -- though at the beginning few people believed in our ability to manage a non-branded casino in the heart of town, with a local team. We proved them wrong, with your help. Most of you started in one position, and climbed up the executive ladder, and I congratulate you on those achievements. You have my gratitude; thank you for your dedication, love and team work, without which it would be impossible to celebrate today. My sincere thanks also go to Meta Corp and Eduardo De Veer for the confidence he



had in us and for the guidance he provided.”

Recognized for their 20 years of service: Walter Theysen, Edgard Roos, Enriqueta Werleman who served as ceremony emcee, Rosendo Koolman, Egidio Kock, Adriaan Lacle, Marian Croes, Lourdes Curie, Olivia Figaroa, Geraldine Lopez-Giel, Eulogio Maduro – also recognized for perfect attendance, Garfield Monah, Floyd Nedd, Sabina Nedd-Charles, Erwin Nicolaas,

Gerla Penja, Luciano Ras, Igidio Wernet, Epifanio Wever and Harold Wouters.

Edgard Roos surprised the team with thick books of newspaper clippings, from the casino archive, depicting 20 years of activities, which saw light for the first time in two decades. “The clipping brought back memories, also of those who are no longer with us,” says Roos, “the trip down memory lane is always loaded with emotion.” □







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## Bluegreen Vacation Club Sales Celebrates Excellence



**EAGLE BEACH** – The team of Bluegreen Properties N.V. at La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club got together for a festive award lunch at the sales center, in celebration of individual achievements during the 3rd quarter of the year.

Director Julian Chance was ceremony emcee conduction the honor festivities with his signature sense of humor and grand style.

Big on positive attitude and

team work Julian highlighted winning qualities as he posed with his top-performers for a photo opportunity at the end of a challenging yet very satisfying 3rd quarter. Julian also took the opportunity to thank the staff for the ongoing push for excellence and professionalism.

Bluegreen awards were the following: For September, Sales Executive of the Month, Rubert Paesch with Malvinia Reyes as runner up. Sales Manager of

the Month, Solange Kuiperi, who also went on to win that same honorable title for October & November making her the ultimate winner for the 3rd quarter. Island Expert for the Month, Karen Riley and In House Coordinator for the Month, Angella Beckford.

For October Sales Executive of the Month, Alberto Groeneveld, with runner ups Roland Hoek and Rubert Paesch, and In House Coordinator for the Month, Lorraine Dubero.

For November Sales Executive of the Month, Rubert Paesch with Alberto Groeneveld and Karel Maduro as runner ups; Island Expert for the Month, Karen Riley and In House Coordinator for the Month, Ann Theophile.

Awards for the last four months included Sales Executive of the 3rd Quarter Malvinia Reyes, Island Expert, Erica Batton; In House Coordinator, Angella



Beckford; Sales & Marketing Support Supervisor, Denise Geerman and Sales & Marketing Support Employee, Adriana Martinus. Founded in 1966 and headquartered in Boca Raton, FL, Bluegreen Corporation is the leader in providing Colorful Places to Live and Play® through its vacation ownership resort and residential real estate business segments.

The company's more than 3,100 employees are passionate about delivering extraordinary experiences for owners, travelers

and business partners.

Bluegreen Corporations manages, markets and sells a flexible, real estate-based vacation ownership plan with more than 208,000 owners, over 45 owned or managed resorts, and access to more than 3,700 resorts worldwide.

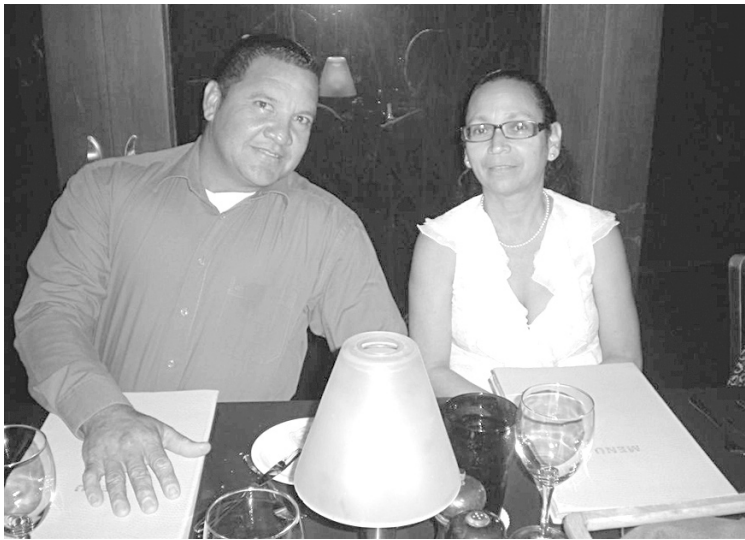
Julian also wished the island of Aruba, and especially the exceptional staff at La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New 2010, on behalf of Bluegreen Corporations. □





*Class dismissed!*

# Teachers kick off holiday break at Aqua Grill



PALM BEACH - It's not just the students that look forward to the holiday break-teachers do too! A group of instructors from St. Paulus School gathered together at Palm Beach's Aqua Grill restaurant to celebrate the end of the current school term and the beginning of a well-earned holiday break.

The gathering was one of many held over the month of December at the island's critically-acclaimed seafood restaurant, where groups big and small can be accommodated. On the menu is a selection of fresh-only

seafood, live Maine lobster, the island's largest raw bar, and a wine selection that

recently earned Aqua Grill the Wine Spectator's Award of Excellence for 2009. □



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# \*\*\*HUMAN HINTS\*\*\*

## Gratitude Leads To Abundance

Gratitude is a fourth dimensional energy that aligns us with our natural power of creation. When we are grateful, we transcend three dimensional limitation and draw abundance to every aspect of our lives.

We all have many things to be grateful for, starting with the chance to be in a Human Body on Earth at this Time. Every Unity Consciousness Fragment that has been lucky enough receive the opportunity to experience limitation through a Human

Body, has won the Lottery of Divine Choice, and should never take a single breath nor heartbeat for granted. Every physical sensation and emotion should be embraced at all times, with Humble, Infinite Gratitude. We're here to experience the physical, not to escape it.

When we're grateful for what we already have, we align our energies with abundance. When we're aligned with abundance, the physical world responds in

order to eliminate lack in our lives.

In every moment, we maintain a balance between focusing on the energies of lack and abundance. When we are constantly grateful, we stay humble. Every Fragment of Unity is equally special and unique, and arrogance is fear based in separation. When we expect to be provided for, when we see ourselves as better than others, we set ourselves up to be let down by the Illusion. Humility stops us from relying on the illusion for self-confirmation.

When you are grateful, you release the tension of desire. Have trouble relaxing? Just be grateful for something. You can fall asleep every night by being grateful for your life. The sensation of gratitude naturally obliterates all desire and allows you to relax like never before. When you start and end a meditation by expressing gratitude, you establish a baseline frequency of relaxation and abundance. The next time you're nervous or upset, feel gratitude and see how quickly your fear disappears.

Gratitude is a powerful tool against all negative energies. It invokes Unity Consciousness, so all desire ceases to exist when you're grateful. The next time you're feeling depressed, anxious, weak and powerless, think of things to be grateful for. Your gratitude will empower you and obliterate your negative feelings.

We have always thought that abundance brings gratitude, but the opposite is true. Gratitude negates lack and creates abundance. Be grateful for what you already have, and abundance will naturally appear in all areas of your life.

If you're having trouble finding something to be grateful for, remember that you breathe and your heart beats, so we all possess the ultimate gift of experiencing Human Life. If you cannot see abundance anywhere else, start by being grateful for your five senses and your emotions, good and bad. Revel in every sensation your body perceives, and you will soon see the Infinite Abundance and Divinity that surrounds you in every moment.

Until Tomorrow...


Go to [www.HumanHints.com](http://www.HumanHints.com) to sign up to receive this column in your email each day.

~Quentin Danziger


~Quentin Danziger

Quentin has over 20 years experience balancing what we refer to as the Real World, with science and spirit. He has held positions of responsibility and authority, received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics from Colorado School of Mines, and has also studied many avenues of alternative thought. HumanHints is the culmination of his knowledge, experience and practice. These free daily emails detail concrete, real-world techniques to consciously create any future you choose, while in the throes of daily life created by outdated modes of thought.

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<b>G</b>	<b>THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG</b>	4.45		
	daily: 12.15	2.30		
	matinee: 12.15			
				late show:
<b>R</b>	<b>THE BLIND SIDE</b>	5.45	8.30	
	daily: 12.00	2.45	11.30	
	matinee: 12.00			
				late show:
<b>R</b>	<b>NINJA ASSASSIN</b>		7.00	9.15
	daily: 7.00		11.45	
	matinee: 7.00			
				late show:
<b>PG</b>	<b>OLD DOGS</b>	4.15	6.15	8.15
	daily: 12.15	2.15	10.15	12.15
	matinee: 12.15			
				late show:
<b>PG-13</b>	<b>2012</b>	4.45	8.00	
	daily: 1.30		11.15	
	matinee: 1.30			
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<b>PG-13</b>	<b>THE TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON</b>	6.00	9.00	
	daily: 12.15	3.00	11.45	
	matinee: 12.15			
				late show:

**AT PASEO HERENCIA**

<b>PG-13</b>	<b>AVATAR 3D</b>	4.45	8.00	<b>NEW</b>
	daily: 1.30			
	matinee: 1.30			
				late show:
<b>PG-13</b>	<b>DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE MORGANS?</b>	6.45	9.00	<b>NEW</b>
	daily: 11.15			
	matinee: 11.15			
				late show:
<b>PG-13</b>	<b>THE TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON</b>	5.45	8.45	
	daily: 12.00	3.00	11.45	
	matinee: 12.00			
				late show:
<b>G</b>	<b>THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG</b>	4.45		
	daily: 12.15	2.30		
	matinee: 12.15			
				late show:
<b>PG-13</b>	<b>2012</b>	5.00	8.15	
	daily: 1.45		11.30	
	matinee: 1.45			
				late show:
<b>R</b>	<b>KOMT EEN VROUW BIJ DE DOKTER</b>	7.00	9.15	
	daily: 11.30			
	matinee: 11.30			
				late show:
<b>PG-13</b>	<b>EVERYBODY'S FINE</b>	4.30		
	daily: 12.00	2.15		
	matinee: 12.00			
				late show:
<b>R</b>	<b>ARMORED</b>	5.30	7.45	9.45
	daily: 1.00	3.15	12.00	
	matinee: 1.00			
				late show:

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*Fine & Affordable Dining at Pam Pam Restaurant*

## Meet Chef Ludwich Samson and his exquisite menu now unveiled!



Nestled in the quiet neighborhood of Boegoeroei, Perle d'Or apartment complex houses Dutch students and vacationers, as well as a cozy garden eatery, Pam Pam Restaurant & Bar. Aiming to attract a more diverse clientele, Pam Pam has recently adopted a more upscale dining concept. In order to pilot this new concept, rising local chef Ludwich Samson was brought on board, and in just two months on the job, he has

more than proven his worth.

Laid-back, refreshingly young, and ambitious, Ludwich began his career as a chef by enrolling in Aruba's hospitality and culinary arts school—the best decision he has ever made, he wholeheartedly claims. With ten years in the kitchen and three years as a chef, Ludwich has developed an impressive arsenal of cooking skills. He attributes the majority of his growth as a chef to his years

of working under his mentor, Vittorio Muscarllo, owner of Hostaria Da'Vittorio and one of the most highly respected chefs on Aruba.

In his two months with Pam Pam, Ludwich has entirely remodeled the kitchen to make it more efficient. He has also created a whole new menu featuring particularly unique dishes in order to distinguish Pam Pam from the endless number of restaurants along Aruba's hotel strip. While the menu still offers Dutch snacks and typical Dutch platters like sate to appease the many Dutch interns residing at Perle d'Or, the rest of the menu offers upscale fusion cuisine. Lemon grass and chillies give several seafood dishes a Thai flair; homemade ravioli and beef carpaccio salute Italy; crustacean ceviche adds a Peruvian element; and Indonesian spices add zest to a handful of casual main dishes.

Ludwich also craftily adds little unexpected twists to some classic dishes, elevating the uniqueness of his menu. One of his personal favorites is his porcini-crusted filet mignon served with a thyme red-wine reduction. He also delights in the fact that most diners have a hard time figuring out the sweet and spicy deliciousness of his signature crustacean platter. Other interesting interpretations include lump-crab lollipops, chicken cordon blue unorthodoxly stuffed with ricotta and bacon, and for dessert, tiramisu that promises an untraditional layer of decadent Bailey's chocolate mousse.

Needless to say, Ludwich is creative in the kitchen and works extremely hard, currently putting in 12 to 16 hours a day, seven days a week; but he insists that this is not what makes a good chef good. "I simply love what



I do for a living," confides Ludwich, and this is what guarantees success in the kitchen and contented diners. Of course, being a chef can be downright stressful, but Ludwich thrives on the rush of adrenaline on busy nights. And when he peers out of the kitchen and sees a restaurant full of people enjoying their meals, he experiences immense satisfaction. For reservations call: 5877710 or 7483848, or visit us at [www.pampamaruba.com](http://www.pampamaruba.com). □





ORANJESTAD--Chef Toshio is serving an 8-course tasting menu at Sushi-Ya restaurant, Seaport Marketplace, this weekend. The special menu features Maguro pickle in olive oil which won Best



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Photo by Diane Keijzer

At the Renaissance Marketplace

# Celebrity Chef Toshio meets applause at Sushi-Ya



an assortments of Makis, Shiitake, Rainbow, Fried and Cevichado, Pork Misozuke and Lychee with vanilla ice cream, all accompanied by special sparkling wine and UmeBlanc. The Chef was invited to Aruba by restaurateurs Sven & Daisy Ellerkamp on the occasion of Sushi-Ya's tenth anniversary in Oranjestad. By creating an



exciting special event Sven & Daisy wanted to thank all their loyal customers for their patronage over the last decade. "We are inviting sushi lovers to sample the chef's exotic flavors," says Sven, "we met Celebrity Chef Toshio in Bogotá at a Gastronomic Fair where he prepared sushi exhibition style, and fell in love with his food." While here, Chef Toshio will also be sharing all of his trade



secrets with the local Sushi-Ya kitchen crew, making it a pleasant weekend training festival. On Saturday Sushi-Ya will be hosting a Client Appreciation party, for their local guests.



but the great variety and quality of ingredients found in Peru, and the staff he already trained, made him wish to stay longer. Chef Toshio was raised on traditional Japanese culinary principles, as fourth generation chef in a dynasty dedicated to Kaiseki, the Japanese



equivalent of French Haute Cuisine. However, in his contemporary style, he now blends the best of both worlds - extraordinary Peruvian ingredients, and complex Japanese preparations. Chef Toshio is a frequent guest at international gastronomical conferences in Spain, Italy, Venezuela, and other countries, and he regularly consults on exclusive restaurants, offering Japanese-Peruvian cuisine. Toshio was a professor at the St. Ignatius of Loyola University, he is the author of several books, and has been a frequent guest on international television shows. □

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12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm. A charter includes: captain, mate, all fishing equipment, bait, sodas and bottled water. On a full day charter sandwiches and snacks are also included. You can call Herby directly at (297) 592 4040 or go to [www.driftwoodaruba.com](http://www.driftwoodaruba.com).

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The Brazilian-style steakhouse also offers up a garden full of healthy eats on a lavish 40-item seasonal salad bar, giving dieters plenty to choose from to accompany the

slow-roasted meats. A selection of fresh lettuces and vegetables may be standard for most salad bars, but **Texas de Brazil's** version goes a gourmet twist further, treating the palate to additional items like marinated portabella mushrooms, sweet roasted bell peppers, hearts of palm, sundried tomatoes, imported cheeses—including fresh buffalo mozzarella—sushi, home-made soups, and much more.

The salad bar is included in the continuous service meal with unlimited choices from the grilled meats, but for vegetarians or the non-meat eaters, a special price is offered for just the salad bar. Of course, for those looking to splurge while on vacation, **Texas de Brazil** will gladly serve their garlic mashed potatoes, traditional fried plantains, and their world-famous parmesan cheese bread as part of the meal.

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# DP dissects draft budget

~ Submits 61 questions ~

PHILIPSBURG--A list of 61 questions about items in the 2010 draft Island Territory Budget was submitted to government by opposition Democratic Party (DP) Thursday.

The party hopes it will receive answers in time for the budget debate tentatively set for December 28.

The party wants to know how far along are the amendments to the 2009 budget that government had said would be submitted along with the 2010 draft budget, and whether a public notice has been issued about the possibility of the public's perusing the 2010 draft budget in accordance with applicable regulations.

A chronological overview of the process of the draft 2010 budget detailing when decision(s) was/were made by the Executive Council regarding the draft budget has been requested by the party.

DP has also enquired whether the Committee for Financial Supervision CFT has given an opinion on the budget, and if so, what this contained. The Island Council should have been provided with such along with the draft budget, but this was not done.

The party questions whether the Island Council will be provided with the implementation plan for the Office of the Ombudsman, for which some NAf. 1 million has been budgeted, and when the ordinance establishing this office will be tabled in the Island Council.

Dealing with the Financial Intelligence Unit MOT for which NAf. 330,825 has been budgeted, DP has asked what the plans for the unit are, how the budget was calculated and what agreement has been reached with the Central Government about MOT.

An outline of the current state of affairs pertaining to the agreement with government-owned St. Maarten Harbour Group of Companies and payment of a concession fee by this company has been requested by the party.

The opposition party wants more specifics on the rental of buildings (a NAf. 4.5 million

item), the most recent financial statement of the Government Buildings Foundation and when the proposal to adjust the long-lease tariff will be tabled. Government has been asked to explain the decrease in funds for the Voluntary Corps of St. Maarten VKS from NAf. 450,000 this year to NAf. 150,000 next year, and the concept and status of the condominium tax, from which a projected income of NAf. 3 million has been budgeted.

It also requests information on when the National Tourism Organisation (NTO) will go into effect, how the government has allocated a concession fee of NAf. 5 million from utilities company GEBE and the financial position of the water distribution company. Some NAf. 1,450,000 was allocated this year to educational programmes and compulsory education, but has been deleted from the 2010 budget. DP has requested an explanation for the deletion.

Enquiries have been made into the status of the Public Education Foundation, whether it is still government's intention to pursue this form of management of public education, and how government will secure the NAf. 3 million necessary for the public school refurbishing programme Phase II. Other questions dealing with subsidies for schools, University of St. Martin and Philipsburg Jubilee Library were submitted.

DP wants government to explain why the budgeted NAf. 1 million for Second Chance Education budgeted in 2009 was moved to subsidies in 2010, and why community development subsidies were dropped from NAf. 300,000 to NAf. 120,000 in 2010.

An outline of how government will finance its sports policy next year, as sport subsidies and specifications have remained identical to those of 2009, has been requested by the opposition.

Information has been requested on the new management policy of the Festival Village and the financial position of the Village.

As NAf. 500,000 has been allocated in the budget to monument care, DP has requested a copy of government's Monument Policy.

Agriculture Pilot Project carries the same description as in 2009, but a budget reduced by NAf. 50,000, so the party wants to know government's view on agriculture promotion.

Some NAf. 25,000 less has been allocated to celebrating Emancipation Day in 2010 compared to this year when NAf. 75,000 was provided. DP wants to know what was spent on Emancipation Day this year and if government has again petitioned the Central Government to make that day an official holiday.

The opposition has also questioned the status of the non-governmental organisation SUFED and the reduction in its allocation from NAf. 165,000 to NAf. 99,270. An unspecified expenditure

of NAf. 1 million has been budgeted for "control as a result of Brooks Towers Accord" in the draft budget. Based on this, DP questioned what government's intention is with the control and if it is to assist the Central Government with control of undocumented immigrants or to execute labour controls.

NAf. 7.3 million has been budgeted as income from foreign work permit fees, of which Brooks Towers Accord permits account for NAf. 3.1 million guilders. DP questions how government arrived at this estimate.

Government has also been asked to explain the reduction in subsidy for Safe Haven, the shelter for battered women and children, from NAf. 300,000 to NAf. 200,000.

Contracts for collection of garbage are pegged at NAf. 8.8 million for 2010, down from NAf. 9.5 million this year. DP wants to know what has been paid so far in 2009 for garbage

collection and would like details on the status of the new collection project. Copies of all agreements reached so far on the new project for garbage collection and disposal have been requested.

DP wants a copy of the budget request submitted by St. Maarten Nature Foundation and an update on the status of the marine park ordinance, and wants to know what has become of government's environment tax.

The opposition also wants an explanation of the purchase of land in Mary's Fancy for NAf. 3.6 million, which has a tagged revenue for government of NAf. three million.

A total of NAf. 5,985,000 has been budgeted for roads and infrastructure in the draft budget. DP wants to know from government what these projects entail.

Also requested by DP is an update on the liquidity position of government at the present time. □

## Westin and Island Receiver strike deal, auction averted

PHILIPSBURG--There will be no auction at The Westin St. Maarten Dawn Beach Resort and Spa today. Legal representatives of the resort and of the Island Receiver's Office worked feverishly into the night Thursday and arrived at a deal that puts a hold on the auction.

Westin's lawyer Maarten Le Poole explained last night that all monies the Island Receiver says Westin owes the Island Government for room tax will be held in an escrow account pending the outcome of a court case to be initiated by Westin within 14 days. In that case the court will decide whether Westin will have to pay the government.

Le Poole said Westin would use the letter of comfort granted to the resort in 2005 as part of its argument, but that wouldn't be the resort's only legal argument.

He did not elaborate.

The status of the lien was not part of the agreement to halt today's auction and the Island Receiver's Office is not expected to lift the lien, which does not hinder Westin's operations because it has been placed on the resort's assets.

The auction by the Island Receiver was scheduled to take place at 10:00am today at the resort. Flat screen TVs and a variety of furniture were among the items listed to be auctioned.

The Island Receiver placed a lien on the assets of Westin citing unpaid room taxes. Westin is countering that claim with a letter of comfort it was granted by the then-Democratic Party (DP) Executive Council in 2005, but it had lost all legal attempts to block the auction that had been scheduled for this morning. □



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## Record 106 students graduate from St. Maarten Academy

*~ School records 100 per cent passes at CXC ~*

L.B. SCOTT ROAD--St. Maarten Academy made history last night, graduating 106 students who all passed every subject they sat in the Caribbean Examinations Council CXC secondary education final exams.

In line with the theme of the 2009 graduating ceremony "Pursuing Excellence, Making History," school principal Shareed Hussain said the graduates had made history in declaring excellence as a habit of St. Maarten Academy. He said the 2009 graduating class had set a new benchmark for the younger students of the school.

He noted that for the first time more than 100 students had sat the exams and passed all subjects taken. Also for the first time, one student passed nine subjects at grade one level and two students passed a total of 12 subjects.

Lisa-Marie Amoy Constant was honoured as the class Valedictorian, receiving outstanding awards for English, English Literature, Mathematics, Social Studies, Spanish, Information Technology, Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Receiving the Principal's Prize for Outstanding Academic Achievement were Constant, David Emmanuel Le Borgne and Akeem Fabian Adams.

Marjorie Licelotte Cortico-Ramirez was honoured with the Principal's Prize as the Most Outstanding Business Student, Constant as the Most Outstanding Science Student, Kevin Christopher James for his Outstanding Contribution to the School, Shantal Britney Victor for her Leadership abilities and Darrell Keith Doram as the Most Outstanding Athlete.

Of the several officials addressing the gathering of graduates, parents, teachers and well-wishers, Josianne Fleming-Artsen, speaking on behalf of the school board, told the graduates their achievement was a testimony of all the school could be and become. She said the school had reclaimed the title of "excellence" throughout the school year by standing out at the annual local interscholastic science fair and debating competition.

Fleming-Artsen encouraged the graduates to continue into college, furthering their education and obtaining degrees. "You are not ready for work. Do not go out now to work for minimum wage. Stay in school long enough to learn and earn as much as you can," were her words of encouragement.

On the same note Leader of Government William Marlin told the graduates the days were gone when government would tell returning students they were overqualified. "You might come back and hear that you are under-qualified, so use the opportunity to pursue your education," he said.

On another note, implying that the local media was quick to report the fights that occur time and time again at the school, he suggested that reporting on the school's recent success take foremost preference.

He said further that the success of the graduating class should silence the Dutch critics in the Netherlands who claimed that the young Antillean generation was lost.

The feature address was given by former St. Maarten Academy graduate Romaine Laville, currently an employee of St. Maarten

Ports Authority. Beginning his speech by reminiscing about his years at St. Maarten Academy, he rallied up a great amount of laughter and agreement with his description of his past teachers still teaching at the school. He told the graduates they were "the brightest and best that this generation has ever produced." □

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# Presidente de Brasil hace discurso crítico en Copenhague

COPENHAGUE (Reuters) - El presidente de Brasil, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, pronunció un discurso más crítico el viernes en el último día de la conferencia global sobre el clima en Copenhague y dijo que Brasil está dispuesto a hacer sacrificios en nombre de un acuerdo climático.

“Confieso que estoy un poco frustrado”, afirmó Lula al comienzo de su discurso, mostrando un aumento en el tono de las críticas por el estancamiento en las negociaciones. “Hay muchos que están tratando de negociar las metas (de reducción de emisiones de gases de efecto invernadero). Todos podríamos ofrecer un poco más si hubiéramos asumido buena voluntad en los últimos periodos”, dijo.

Lula volvió a defender su idea de que los países ricos tienen mayor responsabilidad por el cambio climático, pero aseguró que Brasil está dispuesto a hacer más por el planeta.

“Si fuera necesario hacer un mayor sacrificio, Brasil está dispuesto a colocar dinero para ayudar a otros países”, declaró el mandatario en una referencia al financiamiento para que países pobres se adapten y lidien con el



El presidente de Brasil, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, habla en una sesión de las negociaciones sobre el cambio climático en Copenhague, 18 dic 2009. REUTERS/Bob Strong

calentamiento global, uno de los obstáculos para un acuerdo. “Brasil no vino a negociar, de dinero externo, planeamos nuestras metas no necesitan hacer (las cosas) con nuestros

recursos”, agregó. Lula reiteró que cualquier acuerdo firmado en Copenhague debe mantener los principios del Protocolo de Kioto, firmado en 1997 y que contempla que las naciones industrializadas, a excepción de Estados Unidos, que no ratificó el acuerdo, reduzcan sus emisiones de gases de efecto invernadero antes del 2012.

“Tenemos que tener mucho cuidado con esa intrusión en los países en desarrollo y en los países más pobres”, dijo Lula en una aparente alusión a las exigencias de países desarrollados al control de emisiones de carbono chinas, a lo cual Pekín se resiste. La renuencia china al control de sus emisiones fue citada por el presidente de Francia, Nicolas Sarkozy, y por la secretaria de Estado Hillary Clinton como un obstáculo para llegar a un acuerdo. □

## Temblor de magnitud 5,3 sacude sudoeste de Colombia

BOGOTÁ (Reuters) - Un sismo de magnitud 5,3 sacudió el viernes un amplia zona del suroeste y centro de Colombia pero no causó víctimas ni daños materiales, pese a que su epicentro se localizó cerca a la ciudad de Cali,

la tercera más poblada del país, informó el Instituto Geofísico Nacional. El temblor se registró hacia las 09.30 hora local (1430 GMT) cerca al municipio de Caloto, en el departamento del Cauca, ubicado en la Cordillera Central de los

Andes, 300 kilómetros al suroeste de Bogotá.

El Instituto Geofísico reveló que el sismo tuvo una profundidad de 147,7 kilómetros, lo que minimizó sus efectos. Un temblor de esa magnitud puede ocasionar graves daños en zonas densamente pobladas, de acuerdo con los expertos. El sismo se sintió en las ciudades de

Cali, Popayán, Manizales, Pereira y Armenia.

La zona cafetera del centro de este país sudamericano fue sacudida en enero de 1999 por un terremoto de magnitud 6,2 que dejó 1.230 muertos, cerca de 5.000 heridos y 250.000 damnificados, en la peor tragedia natural del país en la última década. □

## Perú: Gobierno declara en emergencia zona de alud

LIMA (AP) - El gobierno declaró el viernes en estado de emergencia por dos meses la región de Ayacucho, castigada por intensas lluvias que provocaron el miércoles un alud que ocasionó la muerte de diez personas y dejó una veintena de heridos. Ante la posibilidad de nuevos aludes, desbordes e inundaciones por las condiciones existentes, el ejecutivo decretó el estado de emergencia en la provincia de Huamanga por 60 días, periodo durante el cual se adoptarán medidas de prevención de desastres y de rehabilitación de las zonas que fueron afectadas por el alud.

El último reporte del Instituto Nacional de Defensa Civil (Indeci), indicaba que nueve personas fallecieron como consecuencia del alud, pero el viernes el Director Regional de la institución, César Echegaray, informó

que fueron 10 las víctimas mortales. Además el Indeci dijo que 810 personas quedaron damnificadas y 1.128 resultaron afectadas. Asimismo, 135 viviendas fueron destruidas y 188 con daños.

Varias calles del centro de la ciudad de Ayacucho quedaron cubiertas de lodo y piedras, incluso a una cuadra de distancia de la plaza principal.

Walter Tapia, coordinador del Centro de Operaciones de Emergencia de Indeci, dijo a la AP que las labores de limpieza de la ciudad ya culminaron, y que a partir de la fecha deberán iniciarse los trabajos de reubicación de las personas afectadas, construcción de muros de contención, y reforestación como medidas preventivas para evitar nuevos daños por aludes. □

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# Holanda pedirá explicación a Venezuela sobre dichos de Chávez

AMSTERDAM (Reuters) - El Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores de Holanda dijo que espera que el embajador de Venezuela en los Países Bajos aclare los comentarios del presidente Hugo Chávez, que lo acusó de planear una agresión contra el país sudamericano. Chávez dijo el jueves que los Países Bajos estaban preparando una "agresión" contra Venezuela al permitir que tropas de Estados Unidos accedan a bases de islas holandesas frente a las costas del Caribe de la nación miembro de la OPEP. "El ministro de Relaciones Exteriores pedirá al embajador de Venezuela una aclaración sobre esos comentarios", dijo un portavoz del ministerio holandés.

Añadió que todos los territorios en el reino de los Países Bajos, que incluyen Aruba y las Antillas Holandesas en el Caribe, no consideraban que los comentarios de Chávez fuesen representativos de la situación. Estados Unidos ha tenido una presencia de larga data en las islas de Curacao y Aruba, con cerca de 250 tripulantes de la Fuerza Aérea y personal en tierra involucrado en operaciones contra el narcotráfico y la vigilancia en el Caribe. Esta vigilancia se realiza desde el aire y sólo por aviones no armados, dijo el portavoz del ministerio. En sus declaraciones del jueves, Chávez no aclaró por qué estaba acusando a los Países Bajos de preparar una agresión ahora.

El presidente venezolano está involucrado en una disputa con su vecino Colombia sobre un acuerdo por el que Bogotá permite a Estados Unidos un mayor acceso a sus bases militares. Chávez dijo que Washington teme a su Gobierno socialista y que intenta rodear a Venezuela. □

El presidente de Venezuela, Hugo Chávez, habla en una reunión en Copenhague, 17 dic 2009. El Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores de Holanda dijo que espera que el embajador de Venezuela en los Países Bajos aclare los comentarios del presidente Hugo Chávez, que lo acusó de planear una agresión contra el país sudamericano. REUTERS/Mads Nissen/Scanpix



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